

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1567

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3285

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EG, JO

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON PNC MEETING AND
MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN RETURN CALL EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR KANDIL DISCUSSED WITH ME
NUMBER OF MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. MY IMPRESSION OF KANDIL
FORMED OVER PAST THREE MONTHS IS EXTREMELY GOOD. A FORMER
MILITARY MAN WHO HAS SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES, HE HAS BEEN
FRANK AND HELPFUL. HE LED ME EARLY TO BELIEVE HE CARRIED NO
TORCH FOR SOVIETS, AND IS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH PRESENT COURSE
OF RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND EGYPT.

2. ON PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS NOW GOING ON IN CAIRO, HE
REPEATED LINE DEVELOPED BY SADAT THAT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES
SHOULD FIRST COME TO TRY TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING AND SECONDLY
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BE PREPARED INDIVIDUALLY TO SPEAK THEIR OWN MIND. IN PROVIDING

THIS INFORMATION TO PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN, WHOM FOR THE FIRST TIME JORDANIANS WERE PREPARED TO ALLOW TO ATTEND, HE BELIEVES A NUMBER DECIDED NOT TO GO. HE IS CONVINCED PERSONALLY THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL GET NOWHERE AND BREAK UP IN DISARRAY. WHILE PALEATINIANS HERE ACCEPTED IN GOOD GRACE HIS COMMENTS, HE BELIEVES FEW IF ANY WILL BE PREPARED TO SPEAK OUT FRANKLY AND OPENLY ON SUBJECTS BEING DISCUSSED. HE SAYS THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE INTIMIDATED BY EACH OTHER, I.E., ARAFAT, HABASH, AND OTHERS WILL INSURE THAT PALESTINIANS FROM THE EAST BANK UNDERSTAND VIEW THEY ARE EXPECTED TO ESPOUCE.

3. ON FORTHCOMING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA, HE EXPECTS SHORTLY TO HAVE ANOTHER VISIT TO JORDAN BY ASHRAF MARWAN. TIMING IS YET UNCERTAIN. THIS CONFIRMS VIEW PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO ME BY KING HUSSEIN.

4. IN ADDITION, HE IS CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL VISIT JORDAN, MOST LIKELY FOLLOWING VISIT HERE OF PRESIDENT NIXON. HE DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT PRESIDENT HAFEZ EL-ASAD WILL ALSO JOIN THEM FOR A MINI-SUMMIT. JORDAN OF COURSE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HOST SUCH A GATHERING WITH IMPLICATIONS IT HOLDS FOR INCREASED JORDANIAN ACCEPTABILITY IN ARAB WORLD.

4. IN TERMS OF FUTURE PALESTINIAN ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS, HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WOULD BE TALKING WITH ARAFAT ABOUT THIS SUBJECT DURING PNC MEETING. HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT ARAFAT MIGHT WELL BE INVITED TO JOIN IN MINI-SUMMIT IN JORDAN, OR IF NOT, AT LEAST BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS JORDAN/PLO ISSUES WITH JORDANIANS AT SOME FUTURE TIME. HE ARGUED THAT JORDANIANS WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER OFF TO ATTEMPT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH PALESTINIANS PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR WEST BANK AND STATED IT HIS BELIEF THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE IN TERMS OF RETURN OF WHOLE WEST BANK TO ARABS, RATHER THAN BY STAGES IN THE FORM OF A DISENGAGEMENT OR SEPARATION OF FORCES.

5. KANDIL MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE HAD BEEN COMMISSIONED BY PRES. SADAT TO BECOME A DIRECT INTERLOCUTOR WITH KING AND PRIME MIN. RIFAI ON BEHALF OF SADAT AND HAD BEEN USED DURING HIS SEVEN MONTHS HERE IN THAT MANNER. HE WAS PLEASED AT SUCCESS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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HUSSEIN'S RECENT VISIT TO CAIRO AND COUNTED IT AS A DIRECT PLUS IN EGYPTIAN POLICY OF GETTING CLOSER TO JORDAN.

6. I MADE CLEAR TO HIM THAT I THOUGHT EGYPTIAN POLICY AT PRESENT VIS-A-VIS JORDAN AND PLO WAS VERY MUCH ONE OF KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN WITH STRONG EVENTUAL HOPE THAT PROBLEM WOULD GO AWAY. HE DID NOT ARGUE WITH FIRST POINT AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED MY CONCLUSION THAT EGYPT HOPED PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED,

QUICKLY AND IN A MANNER WHICH DID NOT CONFRONT EGYPT WITH
DIFFICULT CHOICES.
PICKERING

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